Department of
Environmental Protection

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Governor

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2600 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400

Colleen M. Castille
Secretary

January 2, 2007

Brad Hartshorn
Florida Department of Environmental Protection- Northwest District
160 Government Center
Pensacola, FL 32501

SUBJECT: Final Audit Report for the TMDL Project Audit Conducted on August 28 – 30, 2006

Dear Mr. Hartshorn:

Thank you for your response to the draft audit report for the audit conducted August 28 – 30, 2006. Your explanations and proposed corrective actions are acceptable with the following comments. These comments correlate with the numbered responses in your November 16, 2006 document and should be incorporated into your corrective action implementation strategy.

Response L-14 – Care should be taken to have less than 0.2 mg/L depletion in your blank. Consistent blank depletions of 0.4 mg/L or greater may indicate methodological problems.

Response L-22 – "Non-detected" results should be reported with the "U" qualifier. The Central Laboratory in Tallahassee has changed its reporting protocol in order to lessen any confusion that may have been occurring. You should have received an email from Kate Brackett to this effect.

Response L-31 – When reporting corrected chlorophyll a results, the precision evaluation should be performed on corrected results.

The proposed corrective actions will result in an improved quality system for the FDEP Northwest District's Laboratory and will improve your ability to demonstrate and document the quality of your data.

The attached executive summary will be posted on the DEP website.

If you have any questions please call (850) 245-8065 or email me at thomas.frick@dep.state.fl.us.

Sincerely,

Tom Frick
Environmental Assessment Section

Attachments (1): Executive Summary

cc (via email): Russ Frydenborg, DEP

TMDL AUDIT Executive Summary

January 2, 2007

Audited Organization:
FDEP Northwest District Laboratory
160 Government Center
Pensacola, FL 32501

DEP Auditors:
Thomas Deck Tom Frick
Russ Frydenborg Jessica Patronis
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Audit Date: August 28 – 30, 2006

This audit was conducted to evaluate past data for TMDL listing purposes as specified in Chapter 62-303, F.A.C.. To accomplish this objective, the audit consisted of a project audit of data retrieved from STORET that was identified as having been produced by the FDEP Northwest District Laboratory.

The project audit was performed using criteria that were developed to meet specific data quality objectives for the TMDL program. Selected records were reviewed to determine if sufficient information was available to verify the quality of the data, with emphasis on calibration, quality control procedures, and documentation. The purpose of the audit was to determine data usability and was not intended as a regulatory action against the audited party.

The Environmental Assessment Section (EAS) determined that for the selected STORET data set, the FDEP Northwest District Laboratory has adequate documentation to allow verification of the quality of the audited results. The table below summarizes the data use as it applies to the TMDL process.

Recommendations for use of Data generated by FDEP Northwest District Laboratory for TMDL Purposes

Analyte	Audited Date Range	Verified Use	Planning Use
Turbidity	6/12/01 - 9/26/05	X	
BOD	7/30/01 - 9/26/05		X
Fecal Coliforms	12/18/01 - 9/26/05	X	2005 Only
Chlorophyll a	12/18/01 - 9/26/05	X	2001 Only

The observed procedural and documentation problems will be corrected with the District's plan of corrective actions for laboratory operations.

Other supporting documentation is available upon request.